

# Seven [7] Steps to Applying for Financial Aid

Updated July 2014

## 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

### CHECK DEADLINES

#### FAFSA 2014–15 Deadlines

**Federal Deadline:**  
June 30, 2015

**Access Missouri Deadline:**  
April 1, 2014

#### FAFSA 2015–16 Deadlines

**Federal Deadline:**  
June 30, 2016

**Access Missouri Deadline:**  
April 1, 2015

#### Priority Deadlines:

Check with your institution's financial aid office. Many Missouri institutions have priority deadlines in February or March.

To ensure all financial aid deadlines are met, you may use estimated tax information to complete the FAFSA.

### GATHER INFORMATION

All documents should be dated for the calendar year preceding the academic year you are applying for. For the 2014–15 academic year, you will need to provide the following financial information from 2013.

- Your Social Security number
- Your driver's license
- Your W-2 forms and other records of money earned
- Your (and your spouse's, if you are married) federal income tax return
- Your parents' federal income tax return, if you are a dependent student
- Your untaxed income records
- Your current bank statements
- Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stock, bond and other investment records
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card, if you are not a U.S. citizen

### PREVIEW THE FAFSA

You can preview the FAFSA by using one of the following methods:

#### FAFSA on the Web:

[www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov)  
(recommended)

#### PDF FAFSA:

[www.fafsa.ed.gov/options.htm](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/options.htm)

### COMPLETE THE FAFSA

The FAFSA determines financial aid eligibility for most federal, state and institutional programs. You may complete the FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov). The FAFSA is processed free of charge by the U.S. Department of Education.

If you provide estimated tax information, you should make corrections to your FAFSA when actual tax information becomes available.

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool allows applicants who have already filed their federal tax returns to pre-fill the answers to some questions on the FAFSA by transferring data from their federal income tax returns.

### REVIEW YOUR SAR

Once your FAFSA has been processed, the USDE will send a Student Aid Report to the email or mailing address provided on your FAFSA. An electronic copy of your Student Aid Report will be sent to the institutions listed on your FAFSA. Check your SAR for accuracy and make corrections as needed.

### SUPPLY INFORMATION

Your financial aid administrators may require additional information such as:

- Financial records, such as an IRS tax transcript ([www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript](http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript)),
- Educational benefits,
- Adoption, foster care or ward of the court documentation,
- Emancipated minor or legal guardianship documentation,
- Homeless or at risk of being homeless documentation, or
- Dislocated worker documentation

### EVALUATE YOUR AID

Review your financial aid award letter. Contact your institution's financial aid office with any questions or for additional information.



Be wary of financial aid websites such as FAFSA.com. These sites do not serve the same purpose as the official FAFSA website and may charge a usage fee.

**Remember, the FAFSA is always FREE!**